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GALENA

in Jo Daviess County,
ILLINOIS



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



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GALENA

alive with History!

Galena was a small settlement in June, 1823 when the "Virginia" steamed up the Galena (then named the Fever) River. The mining and smelting of lead ore had brought the steamboats north and, in the years that followed, established Galena as the most important trading center in the Upper Mississippi Leadmine Region. By the late 1840's Galena was approaching its zenith as a river port and the city reflected its great wealth and economic power.

In 1854 the Illinois Central Railroad reached Galena and the following year the depot was built. That depot still serves travelers now, as an Information and Visitors Center. The railroads,

however, were to begin the decline of Galena as an important river port, but only history would prove that.

As the Civil War began, the nation called upon a Galena citizen to serve the Union cause. Ulysses S. Grant had come to Galena from St. Louis in 1860 to work in his father's leather store. He rose through the Army ranks to lead the Union to victory. Grant was one of nine Galena residents to serve as general during the Civil War. Later he was elected twice as the 18th President of the United States. His home is maintained by the State of Illinois and is open to the public.

Galena's importance faded after the war, but it continued as a center of local trade until the turn of the century. By that time, the years of building had established Galena as an architecturally rich city. Fine examples of Greek Revival, Italianate, Gothic, Second Empire and Queen Anne homes are found throughout the city. The commercial buildings lining Main Street's "Wall" also reflect the popular styles of the time. Today that stock of buildings remains virtually intact as the "Galena Historic District" on the National Register and serves as a living architectural museum.

Come, discover Galena . . . alive with history.



Photo: Dick Vincent

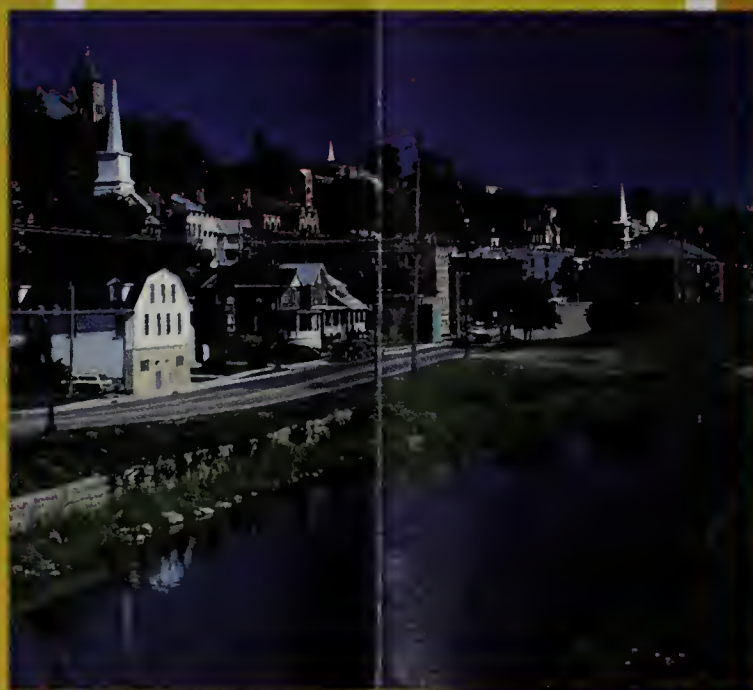
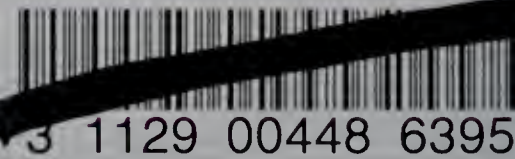


Photo: Jim Quick

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY



GALENA

alive with Activity!

Galena, once called the "town that time forgot," is a living city and the county seat of Jo Daviess County. Along with its many attractions, Galena offers all the services of a small city. It is important to know that although Galena makes use of its historical past, it also reflects the style of its present residents. The visitor should come with an open mind and a spirit of adventure in order to enjoy what is offered during any season of the year.

Museums . . . Galena's heritage is safeguarded through public and private collections of artifacts, furnishings and memorabilia. The Old General Store operated by the Galena Historical Society is only one of many opportunities to share Galena's history. A complete list of museums is listed inside this brochure.

Shopping . . . shops like Karen's which advertises "neat Stuff" offer a wide assortment of interesting merchandise for your home, your table or your wish list. Galleries, gift shops, specialty

food shops and the Galena Cellars Winery offer a spectrum of choices from an area watercolor to a taste of the grape.

Tour homes . . . a number of Galena's historic homes are open to the public generally from May through October. The Belvedere built in 1857 by a steamboat owner, J. Russell Jones, is one of the city's largest mansions. A visit to these homes gives understanding to the elegant lifestyle of Galena's glory days. A complete list is provided inside.

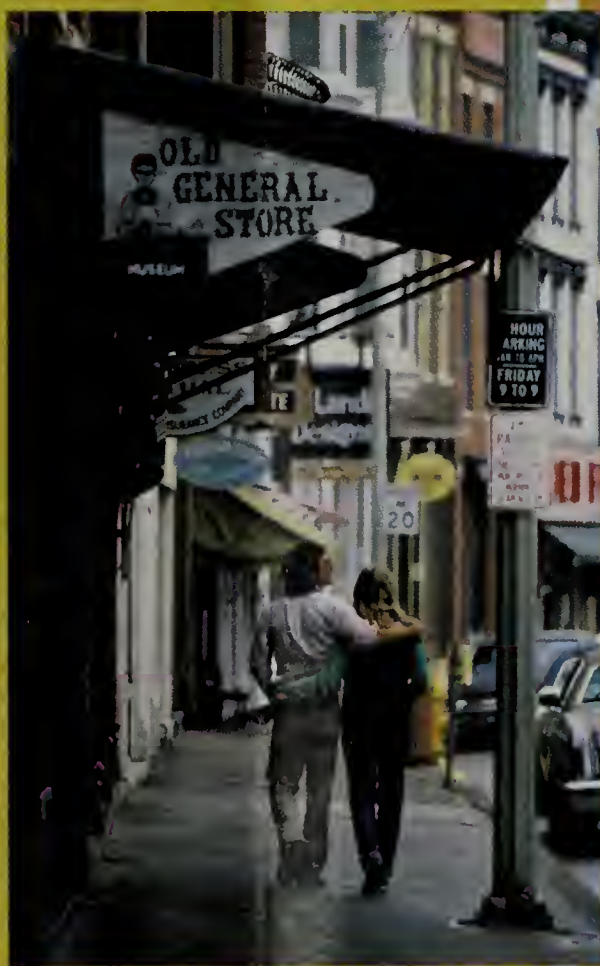


Photo: Jim Quick



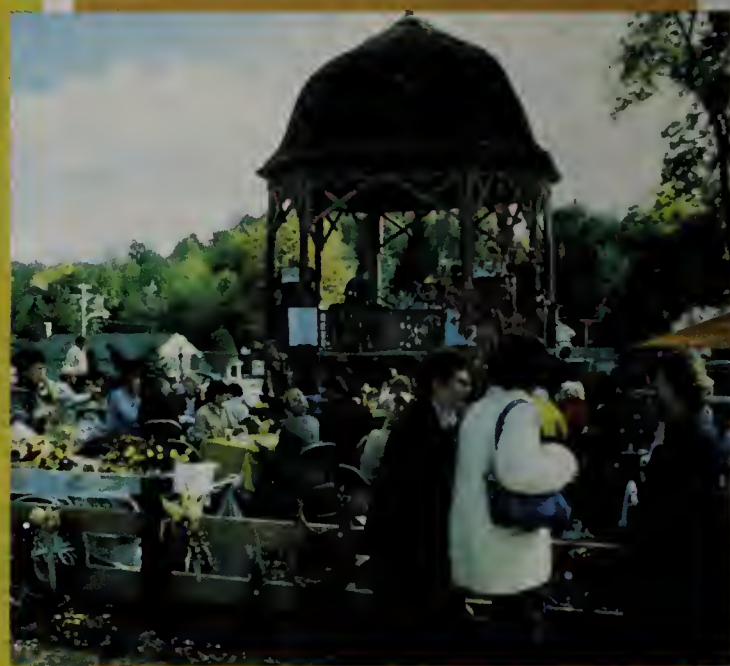


Photo: Jim Quick

Accommodations . . . Galena offers three motels at either edge of town along Hwy. 20. Grant Hills and the Palace Motels have outdoor pools and the Palace offers camping. The Triangle Motel advertises comfort at a moderate price.

Galena and the surrounding area now boasts a growing number of guest homes and bed & breakfast establishments. Guests have an opportunity to experience the Victorian charm of homes like the Ryan Mansion built in 1876. Each facility offers a unique feeling to its guests.

The newly restored DeSoto House Hotel welcomes visitors to Main Street and there are three resort complexes close to Galena.

Antiques . . . for many years Galena has been known for its many and varied shops featuring a wide selection from period furniture to unique collectibles. Many of the shops inhabit the old store fronts of Main Street, but others are found outside the business district for those willing to explore.

Dining . . . Galena and environs shares a wide range of eating opportunities with its visitors. Gourmet dining at a fine restaurants like Truffles and the Grant Court at the DeSoto Hotel, ethnic food, country cooking, haute cuisine or a cheeseburger at Pete's Steakburger Inn await your tastes.

Special events . . . Galena hosts a number of annual weekend events and each has its special attraction. They include the Illinois Special Winter Olympics, U.S. Grant Pilgrimage, the Galena Antiques Fair, the June Open House Tour, Galena Arts Festival, the Fourth of July Celebration, the Turner Hall Flea Market, Antique Town Rod Run, Tour Historic Galena Homes, Galena Country Fair, Halloween Parade, Old Fashioned Christmas Walk and Country Christmas in Galena. Complete information on these events can be obtained from the Information Center.

During any season of the year, whether you come for a special weekend or a quiet midweek stay, Galena's friendly people welcome you to share Galena . . . alive with activity.

GALENA

alive to Explore!



Local funding:
JO DAVIESS COUNTY
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU



Museums/Tour Homes

- 1 The Belvedere
- 2 Fiddick Tour Home
- 3 Galena/Jo Daviess History Museum
- 4 Grant Hills Antique Auto Museum
- 5 John Dowling Stone House
- 6 Lolly's Toy & Doll Museum
- 7 Market House State Historic Site
- 8 Old General Store
- 9 The Old Stockade
- 10 Turney House
- 11 U.S. Grant Home State Historic Site
- 12 Vinegar Hill Historic Lead Mine

Historic Sites

- 13 Central School
- 14 DeSoto House
- 15 East Galena Town Hall
- 16 Galena Blacksmith Shop
- 17 Galena Public Library
- 18 Grant City Park
- 19 Grant Home Park
- 20 Grant's Pre-Civil War Home
- 21 Illinois Central Depot
(Galena Information & Visitors Center)
- 22 Jo Daviess County Courthouse
- 23 Old City Cemetery & Park
- 24 Old Jo Daviess County Jail
- 25 Post Office/Custom House
- 26 Turner Hall
- 27 Washburne House State Historic Site

Public Washrooms

- Galena/Jo Daviess History Museum
- Illinois Central Depot
- Illinois Drivers Service Facility
- Jo Daviess County Courthouse
- Market House State Historic Site
- U.S. Grant Home State Historic Site



General Information

The Galena Information & Visitors Center is operated and staffed by the Galena/Jo Daviess County Chamber of Commerce. General and specific literature is published giving current information on Accommodations, Dining, Recreation, Special Events, Antiques, and area maps. Private business information and tour services are also available. Trained staff can personally assist you on location, by phone or mail.

In Galena:
The Information & Visitors Center is located in The Illinois Central Depot and is open daily all year, with ample parking and restroom facilities.

By phone:

(815) 777-0203
Toll-free in Illinois: (800) 892-9299
Toll-free in nearby states: (800) 874-9377
(Phone Hours- 10 am to 4 pm Daily)

Call ahead for weekend or specific lodging reservations.

By mail:

Galena/Jo Daviess Chamber of Commerce
101 Bouthillier Street
Galena, Illinois 61036

Resorts/Convention Centers

The Galena area has become a popular location for small conventions, business meetings, seminars and retreats. Eagle Ridge Inn & Resort at the Galena Territory features two championship golf courses, tennis and other recreational offerings.



Photo: Dick Vincent

Chestnut Mountain Resort and Timmerman's Lodge both offer views of the Mississippi River and each have features that make them attractive meeting sites. On Galena's Main Street, the newly restored DeSoto House Hotel offers that in-town meeting place. All these facilities have staff who are pleased to provide information on the special amenities each can offer meeting planners.

Winter Recreation

Near Galena, Chestnut Mountain Resort offers day and night downhill skiing on its 14 slopes. Special events, certified instructors, ample rental equipment and snow making equipment provide skiers with fine skiing. For the cross country buffs, Eagle Ridge features a rental shop and miles of groomed trails. Ice skating, sledding and snowmobiling on the frozen Mississippi River round out winter possibilities.



Summer Recreation



Photo: Dick Vincent

Thirty-six holes of the finest golf in the Midwest can be found at Eagle Ridge Golf Club at the Galena Territory. Both courses were listed among the top new courses in the country the year they were constructed. The Galena Golf Club also features a sporty 9-hole course. Other recreational options include the Alpine Slide at Chestnut Mountain Resort, horseback riding, fishing, boating, tennis, hiking, canoeing and swimming.

Scenic Touring

Surrounding historic Galena are the beautiful, rolling hills of Jo Daviess County. The great glaciers never covered this land and it is known as the "Driftless Area." The Mississippi River forms the natural western border of the County. Country roads twist past farms with handsome old barns and lead to picturesque small towns. The bluffs offer breathless views of the ageless landscape and a special treat is the panoramic view from the observation tower on Hwy. 20 near Elizabeth.



GALENA

in Jo Daviess County,
ILLINOIS



In Cooperation with the

Illinois

Department of Commerce and Community Affairs
Office of Tourism

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For written information:

Galena/Jo Daviess County

Chamber of Commerce

101 Bouthillier Street

Galena, Illinois 61036